UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.6/47/L.1
18 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
SIXTH COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

I. ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly decided to allocate to the Sixth Committee 12 items. The titles of these items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 18 September 1992 from the President of the Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/47/1).

II. DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE ITEMS ALLOCATED TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

3. The following table lists the documents of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. 1/ It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports which are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of preceding sessions of the Assembly, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee, in accordance with requests of Member States. The items are arranged in the order in which they appear in the letter dated 18 September 1992 from the President of the Assembly to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/47/1).

	Projected date of issuance
Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States (125)	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/323)	Issued
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts (126)	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/324)	Issued
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives (127)	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/325 and Add.1) .	Issued
United Nations Decade of International Law (128)	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/384)	23 September 1992
Letter dated 23 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/67)	Issued
Letter dated 27 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/60-S/23329) .	Issued
Report of the International Law commission on the work of its forty-fourth session (129)	
Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 10 (A/47/10)	Issued
Note verbale from Mexico (A/47/95)	30 September 1992
Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/441-S/24559)	Issued
Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (130) 2/	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/326 and Add.1)	Issued

	Projected date of issuance
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fifth session (131)	
Report of the Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 17 (A/47/17)	Issued
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/454)	24 September 1992
Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto (132) 3/	No new documentation
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (133)	
Report of the Special Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 33 (A/47/33)	Issued
Letter dated 23 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/67)	Issued
Letter dated 27 December 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/60-S/23329) .	Issued
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country (134)	
Report of the Committee, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 26 (A/47/26)	9 November 1992
Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (135)	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/327 and Add.1) .	Issued
Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict (136)	
Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/328)	Issued

III. DATE FOR CONCLUDING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE, ORDER AND APPROXIMATE DATES OF CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. At its 1st meeting, on 16 September 1992, the General Committee decided to recommend that the forty-seventh session should recess not later than Friday, 18 December 1992 and conclude on Monday, 20 September 1993. Under the circumstances, it appears advisable that the Sixth Committee should arrange its schedule of meetings in such a way that it will conclude its work not later than Wednesday, 25 November 1992.

6. Taking into account the pattern followed by the Committee in the order of consideration of items at recent sessions of the General Assembly, the Sixth Committee may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn up on the basis of previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of the agenda items referred to it.

Item	Approximate dates of consideration
Election of the Vice-Chairmen and Rapporteur and organization of work	18 September 1992
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its twenty-fifth session	23-24 September 1992
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts	25 September 1992
Observer status of national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and/or by the League of Arab States	28 September 1992
Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict	1-6 October 1992

Item	Approximate dates of consideration
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives	7-9 October 1992
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization	12-20 October 1992
Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 4/	21-23 October 1992
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its forty-fourth session 5/	26 October-6 November 1992
Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property 6/	9-11 November 1992
Consideration of the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto 7/	12 November 1992
United Nations Decade of International Law 8/	13-17 November 1992
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country	18 November 1992
Reserve	19-25 November 1992

The above timetable will be implemented taking into account the need to schedule at least two meetings each week between 22 September and 25 October for working groups or informal consultations described in section IV below.

IV. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUPS AND HOLDING OF CONSULTATIONS

7. In connection with the establishment of subcommittees or working groups and the holding of consultations for the purpose of facilitating the work, it should be borne in mind that the General Assembly took the following decisions at its forty-sixth session:

(a) As regards agenda item 128 (United Nations Decade of International Law), the General Assembly requested the Working Group on the United Nations

Decade of International Law to continue to work at the forty-seventh session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work (resolution 46/53 of 9 December 1991). It should be recalled that the present programme for the first term of the Decade expires on 31 December 1992;

(b) With respect to agenda item 130 (Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property), the General Assembly decided to establish at its forty-seventh session an open-ended working group of the Sixth Committee to examine, in the light of the written comments of Governments, as well as views expressed in debates at the forty-sixth session of the Assembly: (i) issues of substance arising out of the draft articles, in order to facilitate the successful conclusion of a convention through the promotion of general agreement; and (ii) the question of the convening of an international conference, to be held in 1994 or subsequently, to conclude a convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property (resolution 46/55 of 9 December 1991);

(c) With respect to agenda item 132 (Consideration of draft articles on the Status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and of the draft optional protocols thereto), the General Assembly decided to resume informal consultations at its forty-seventh session to study the draft articles on the status of the diplomatic courier and the diplomatic bag not accompanied by diplomatic courier and the draft optional protocols thereto, as well as the question of how to deal further with these draft instruments with a view to facilitating the reaching of a generally acceptable decision in the latter respect (resolution 46/57 of 9 November 1991);

(d) With respect to agenda item 135 (Additional protocol on consular functions to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations), the General Assembly decided to hold informal consultations during the forty-seventh session to examine the proposals on the subject, particularly in the light of the views expressed by States contained in the report of the Secretary-General or expressed during the debate on this item in the Sixth Committee at the forty-sixth session of the Assembly.

8. Since the conference services to be provided for meetings of working groups and for the holding of informal consultations are those allocated to the Sixth Committee, it is important that such meetings and consultations be held in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings of the Committee.

V. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WITH FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Main Committees allow sufficient time for the preparation of the

estimates of expenditures by the Secretariat and for their consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if Wednesday, 25 November 1992 is accepted as concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 5 above), Tuesday, 17 November 1992, would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

VI. CONFERENCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

10. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold an average of seven plenary meetings per week; normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

11. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.

Notes

1/ The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the forty-seventh session. The listing of documents has been done on the basis of communications and reports available as at 18 September 1992.

2/ For the draft article adopted by the International Law Commission on this topic, see Report of the International Law Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session (A/46/10).

3/ For the draft articles adopted by the International Law Commission on the topic, see Report of the International Law Commission, Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session (A/44/10).

4/ Under General Assembly resolution 46/61 of 9 December 1991, the consideration of this item in the Sixth Committee is to include informal consultations (see para. 7 (a) below).

5/ At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly recommended that the debate on the report of the International Law Commission at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly should commence on 26 October 1992 (resolution 46/54 of 9 November 1991).

6/ Under General Assembly resolution 46/55 of 9 November 1991, the consideration of this item is to include work in the framework of a working group (see para. 7 (b) below).

Notes (continued)

7/ Under General Assembly resolution 46/57 of 9 November 1991, the consideration of the item in the Sixth Committee is to include informal consultations (see para. 7 (c) below).

8/ Under General Assembly resolution 46/53 of 9 November 1991, the consideration of this item in the Sixth Committee is to include work in the framework of a working group (see para. 7 (a) below).

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.6/47/L.2
30 September 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
SIXTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 136

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN TIMES OF ARMED CONFLICT

Cyprus, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, United States of America and Yemen: draft resolution

Protection of the environment in times of armed conflict

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the use of certain means and methods of warfare may have dire effects on the environment,

Recognizing also the importance of the provisions of international law applicable to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict and, in particular the rules of universal applicability laid down in the Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, of 18 October 1907, with the Regulations annexed thereto 1/ and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 2/ and the rules binding on States parties to the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, 3/ and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I) of 1977, 4/ and to the Convention

---

1/ See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Hague Convention and Declarations of 1899 and 1907 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

3/ Ibid., Nos. 970, 971, 972 and 973.

4/ Ibid., vol. 1125, No. 17512.

on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques of 1977, 5/

Expressing its deep concern over environmental damage and depletion of natural resources, including the destruction of hundreds of oil-well heads and the release and waste of crude oil into the sea, during recent conflicts,

Noting that existing provisions of international law prohibited such acts,

Concerned that the provisions of international law prohibiting such acts may not be well known,

Expressing the view that the natural environment as such should not be a legitimate military objective and may not be directly attacked,

Expressing its appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General issued pursuant to decision 46/417, 6/

Stressing that wanton destruction of the environment with no legitimate military objective is clearly contrary to existing international law,

Regretting that during periods of armed conflict there is inevitably some collateral damage to the environment, just as there is inevitably some collateral damage to civilian objects and collateral injury and death to civilians during armed conflict,

1. Urges States to take all measures to ensure compliance with the existing international law applicable to the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict;

2. Appeals to all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming party to the relevant international conventions;

3. Further urges States to take steps to incorporate the provisions of international law applicable to the protection of the environment into their military manuals and to ensure that they are effectively disseminated.

5/ Ibid., vol. 1108, No. 17119.

6/ A/47/328.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.6/47/L.3
6 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
SIXTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 126

STATUS OF THE PROTOCOLS ADDITIONAL TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949 AND RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF ARMED CONFLICTS

Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden and Ukraine: draft resolution

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/44 of 8 December 1977, 34/51 of 23 November 1979, 37/116 of 16 December 1982, 39/77 of 13 December 1984, 41/72 of 3 December 1986, 43/161 of 9 December 1988 and 45/38 of 28 November 1990,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on the status of the Protocols 2/ Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 3/ and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts,

---

1/ A/47/324.

2/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

3/ Ibid., vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

Convinced of the continuing value of established humanitarian rules relating to armed conflicts and the need to respect and ensure respect for these rules in all circumstances within the scope of the relevant international instruments, pending the earliest possible termination of such conflicts,

Noting with satisfaction that the International Fact-Finding Commission pursuant to article 90 of Additional Protocol I has become operational,

Stressing the need for consolidating and implementing the existing body of international humanitarian law and for the universal acceptance of such law,

Mindful of the role of the International Committee of the Red Cross in offering protection to the victims of armed conflicts,

Noting with appreciation the continuing efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross to promote and to disseminate knowledge of the two additional Protocols,

1. Appreciates the virtually universal acceptance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the increasingly wide acceptance of the two additional Protocols of 1977;

2. Notes, however, the fact that, in comparison with the Geneva Conventions, the number of States parties to the two additional Protocols is still limited;

3. Appeals to all States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties also to the additional Protocols at the earliest possible date;

4. Calls upon all States which are already parties to Protocol I, or those States not parties, on becoming parties to Protocol I, to consider making the declaration provided for under article 90 of that Protocol;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the status of the Protocols based on information received from Member States;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".